



**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

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Budget woes? Your library can help

If a shrinking bank account has you singing the blues, take heart: Catawba County Library System can help.

Free public library services and materials are available to everyone. There are thousands of fiction and nonfiction books for checkout. And speaking of books, how about the how-to's? The nonfiction shelves stock reams of advice on everything from gardening to cooking to starting a business and managing your finances.

A budget adviser is available for free consultations weekly at three library locations. Stop by from 2-4 p.m. Mondays at Southwest, Tuesdays at St. Stephens or Wednesdays at Newton to visit with Jim Escuder of Catawba County Social Services. He can point you in the direction of free or low-cost services to help you cope with frazzled family finances.

Regular library offerings can stretch your budget too.

Internet service: Catawba County Library has 96 public access computers throughout the system including some in Newton, Conover, Claremont, Maiden, St. Stephens, Sherrills Ford and Southwest, serving Banoak and Mountain View. These computers are a lifesaver to those who can't afford a computer or internet service.

Free classes: If you're befuddled about setting up an email account or navigating the web or creating a PowerPoint presentation, trained staff offers classes on these subjects and more. Monthly classes for adults will resume in August.

Movies: Library holdings include DVDs, many of them new or recent releases. Borrowing saves the purchase or rental fees.

Music: Want to expand your listening library but don't have the cash? Your county library has a wide array of music CDs for check-out.

Kids' activities: The library's Summer Reading program is a free ticket to keeping kids occupied this summer. Activities are scheduled each week at various library locations through early August. Kids and youth who participate will be eligible to earn free books and benefit from maintaining their reading skills before school starts this fall.

Cheap books: Friends of the Library have set up ongoing sale racks at Claremont, Sherrills Ford and the Main Library, offering books for as little as 25 cents. Though many titles are former library books, some are like-new donations. Watch for the big book sale in Newton Aug. 13 and 14.

Audio books: If you're planning a weekend at the beach or in your own backyard, there are thousands of books to choose from either on conventional CDs or downloadable books to take along. Materials can be downloaded for use on MP3 players or CDs from the library website, <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library/>

Magazines, newspapers: Don't let the expense of subscriptions keep you from enjoying your favorite periodicals. Daily newspapers are available at the library along with an array of magazines. Only back issues of magazines can be checked out.

Research aids: NC Live, allows free access to thousands of newspapers, journals, print and audiobooks for business, school or pleasure. The service can be accessed from any computer at www.nclive.org . Contact your library for the password.

With seven locations, chances are you are only minutes from a branch. Drop-off boxes make it fast and easy to return materials at any time—even after hours to *any* branch of the county system.

For more information about library hours or services, contact any branch or Lynne Bolick Reed, library services coordinator, at 465-8292.

